

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 72208

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : STEINER ET AL.
PCT No : PCT/EP2004/012431
Filed : May 4, 2006
For : CLOSURE FOR...
Dated : May 3, 2006

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the specification originally filed, with the enclosed substitute specification. A marked up copy of the original specification is attached. Applicant states that no new matter has been added.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A closure for cables (1), ~~especially saw cables~~, wherein the closure (4) comprises comprising:

_____ a plurality of bearings;

_____ a plurality of closure parts (5, 6, 7, 8), which can be connected to one another movably
5 about at least two separate axes (10, 11, 12) by means of [[a]] said plurality of bearings (13;
26, 27), characterized in that the closure (4) has; and

_____ a bearing securing means wherein two of said closure parts (5, 6) with provided with
a separable pivot bearing (13) of said plurality of bearings and [[a]] said bearing securing means
(18), which can be detached as a function of [[the]] an angular position of the closure parts (5;
10 6).

2. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~
wherein said bearing securing means (18) is designed as comprises a mutual tongue-and-groove
guide (19) at [[the]] said closure parts (5, 6).

3. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~
the wherein said bearing securing means (18) is closed in [[the]] operating positions (29) of the
closure parts (5, 6) in which they are aligned with one another or are mutually bent in relation
to one another to a limited extent and can be loosened in a loosened position (30) with an
5 approximately 90° bending angle of the closure parts (5, 6).

4. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim ~~[[1,]] 2 or 3~~, characterized in that wherein said double tongue-and-groove guide (~~19~~) is arranged at the closure parts (~~5, 6~~).

5. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 2 ~~one of the above claims~~, characterized in that wherein the tongue-and-groove guide (~~19~~) is bent about the axis (~~10~~) of the pivot bearing (~~13~~).

6. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 1 ~~one of the above claims~~, characterized in that wherein the pivot bearing (~~13~~) is designed as a pivot bearing that can be plugged in, in the axial direction.

7. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 1 ~~one of the above claims~~, characterized in that wherein the closure parts (~~5, 6~~) have a flat bearing surface (~~17~~) and a central bearing pin (~~14~~) passing through the bearing surfaces (~~17~~) to form the pivot bearing (~~13~~) with pin.

8. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 1 ~~one of the above claims~~, characterized in that wherein the closure parts (~~5, 6~~) have an essentially identical design.

9. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 1 ~~one of the above claims~~,

characterized in that wherein the closure parts (5, 6) have a stepped body (25).

10. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 1 ~~one of the above claims~~, characterized in that wherein the closure part (5, 6) at the front edge of the bearing surface (17) has a projecting, bent collar (20, 21) to form the tongue.

11. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 10 ~~one of the above claims~~, characterized in that wherein the closure part (5, 6) at the rear edge of the bearing surface (17) has a bent groove (23, 24) to receive the tongue.

12. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 11 ~~one of the above claims~~, characterized in that wherein the collar (20, 21) and the groove (23, 24) are bent essentially concentrically about the axis of rotation (10).

13. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 11 ~~one of the above claims~~, characterized in that wherein the collar (20, 21) and the groove (23, 24) have an arc angle smaller than 90°.

14. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 11 ~~one of the above claims~~, characterized in that wherein the collar (20, 21) extends over a partial area of the with width of the closure part and is shortened on one side and a step (22) is formed.

15. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 11 ~~one of the above~~ claims, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the groove (23, 24) extends over a partial area of the width of the closure part and is offset (32) in relation to the edge of the closure part on one side.

16. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 15 ~~one of the above~~ claims, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the step (22) and the groove offset (32) lie on the same side of the bearing surface (17).

17. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with ~~one of the above claims,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 15, wherein the groove (23, 24) has a variable overlap, due to the superjacent body edge of the closure part (5, 6), with an, essentially straight stop area (34) and with a bent projection (31).

18. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 11 ~~one of the above~~ claims, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the closure (4) has four or more said closure parts (5, 6; 7, 8) are provided connected in an articulated manner ~~and to form~~ a multiple joint (9) with a cardan-like arrangement of three or more ~~said~~ axes (10, 11, 12).

19. (Currently Amended) A closure in accordance with claim 1, ~~one of the above claims,~~ ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said closure parts include end-side closure parts (7, 8) are

connected to the cable ends (2,3).

20. (Currently Amended) A process for connecting and opening cables (1), especially said saw cables; with a multipart (5, 6, 7, 8) closure (4), which is movable by means of a plurality of said bearings (13, 26, 27) about at least two said separate axes (10, 11, 12), characterized in that the process comprising the steps of:

5 connecting two said closure parts (5, 6) of the closure (4) ~~are connected~~ to one another; and

separating the closure parts ~~separated~~ by means of a separable pivot bearing (13), wherein a detachable bearing securing means (18) is actuated as a function of the angular position of the closure parts (5, 6).

21. (Currently Amended) A process in accordance with claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein to connect and open the cable (1), the closure parts (5, 6) are brought into a mutual angular position and said loosened position (30) of about 90° and are moved relative to one another along the axis of rotation (10) of the pivot bearing (13).

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 21 are in this application and are presented for consideration. Claims 1 through 21 have been amended. The amended claims present the same subject matter as the original claims but have been amended to adapt them to the U. S. style.

The specification and claims have been amended in order to place this application in better form. The reference to claims in the specification has been deleted or amended. Appropriate headings have been added. No new matter has been added.

Favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,



By: _____
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JJM:jj/
72208-1

Enclosed: Substitute Specification and Marked up copy of Translation

DATED: May 3, 2006
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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.